

0334-8993

055A-89913

25 September 1959

67-6-22/3

To : Chief, ON
Info : Chief, NK
Chief of Station, []
From : Chief of Station, []
Subject : REDWOOD, [] / AKHARSH/Operational
Latvian Secret Police Official in Finland

Action Required: For your information

References : A. 0334-1160, 9 January 1959
B. 0334-0172, 16 January 1959
C. 0334-0126

1. On 9 September 1957 [] called for an unscheduled meeting with the undersigned and related the below information.

2. A Latvian refugee by the name of

Janis LUKINS

who works for [] company told [] in confidence a story of his encounter with an individual he was told is the Latvian Secret Police Chief. According to LUKINS, he received word that a Soviet Latvian friend of his was in Tartu, Finland and wanted to see him. On 5 September LUKINS took a Finn Air flight to Tartu, Finland. When he arrived his "friend" told him that the Latvian Secret Police Chief was in the hotel and wanted to talk with him. LUKINS, who [] describes as fearless and strongly anti-communist, agreed to see him. The Soviet Latvian identified himself as LAURIS (LVI) and then attempted to persuade LUKINS to return permanently to Latvia. When this failed, the Soviet Latvian tried to induce Subject to visit Latvia and see his aged mother and then return to Sweden. To LUKINS' question of guarantee of returning, the Soviet said he would deposit a guarantee in the Soviet Embassy, Stockholm. Subject saw through this and apparently told the Soviet off at which point a very heated exchange ensued. The Soviet mentioned that about 1 1/2 years ago the U. S. had parachuted some Latvians, that they were all caught and that the Soviets were aware of all Latvian escape activities in Scandinavia. LUKINS told [] that from this encounter he felt the Soviets had been keeping an eye on him for some time. He also said that he was obliged to warn the Latvian who formerly was recruiting Latvians in Sweden and who is now in [] working for CIAID.

3. According to LUKINS, the Soviet became extremely angry and after turning up the water faucets in the hotel room stated, "or will come soon and the West will be destroyed." Subject returned to Stockholm on 5 September.

4. Unfortunately [] account of the incident is second hand and void of specific detail, i.e., name of "friend", hotel and Latvian name in []. However, Headquarters may be able to throw some light on the "friend" and possibly contact him and get his account of the incident if LUKINS has in fact written to him.

5. Since [] departed on a month's vacation 7 September we did not get a follow up to this story. This far none of our [] related this incident.

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EXEMPTIONS Section 5
(2)(A) Privacy ☐
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒
(2)(C) Foreign Relations ☐

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6. We suspect the LUKINS' "friend" may be the Harold BENJAMINIS mentioned in References A and B.

7. For [] [] [] Station may be able to verify any unusual activity in Tartu on 5 and 6 Sept. and even possibly identify who in addition to LUKINS was present. The timing would indicate that the unidentified Latvian Secret Police official is identical with the individual who accompanied [] to his meeting with [] (Reference C).

23 September 1959

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